

Torrance, California  
June 12, 1945

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California on Tuesday, June 12, 1945 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor Tolson called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. Absent: Councilmen: None.

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held May 22, 1945 and of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held June 5, 1945 be approved as written. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from Mrs. Evelyn R. Carr, for Torrance Parents' Association, advising that purchase by the City of the block of land near the Fern Avenue School from the Los Angeles City School District, the proposal having been presented at the May 22, 1945 meeting, would not be in the best interests of community economy.

Councilman Gilbert said that, in his opinion, the City should purchase this property, and that the Recreation Commission had also recommended the purchase, but that he felt the matter should be held over for further study by the Council.

A communication was read from Thomas E. Knight, 228 Hollywood Parkway, Hollywood Riviera, requesting a number of improvements as follows: a fire plug in front of the address named, a light standard on the block, repairs to the street, and repairs to light standards on the adjacent streets, which have had globes and bulbs broken.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the requests be referred to the City Engineer for recommendation. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mrs. M. G. Taylor, 1631 Date Avenue, requesting removal of live oak trees on Date Avenue, claiming that they are diseased and spreading infection to other trees and plants.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the request be referred to the Park Superintendent for recommendation. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Reverend Arthur P. Pederson, Four-Square Church, 1207 El Prado, requesting that the City pave the sidewalk in front of the church.

Mayor Tolson advised that this has been done for other churches, the request being for paving of the area between the curb and sidewalk.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request be referred to the City Engineer for investigation and report to the City Council of estimated cost. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from The American Legion, signed by Tom Babbitt, Adjutant, Bert S. Crossland Post No. 170, advising that, with the Semi-Pro Baseball Tournament scheduled for the summer months, large attendance being expected, concern is felt

about the seating capacity at the Municipal Ball Park. The question was asked as to whether or not the City plans to construct permanent or removable bleachers at the park this summer.

A short period of discussion followed, Councilman Cucci claiming that, if the City does plan on more seats, they should be permanent rather than the portable type. Councilman Powell commented that, although he had attended many ball games at the park, he had never seen the bleachers filled to capacity, and that he did not feel that additional seats are altogether necessary at this time.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the matter be referred to Mr. Dale Riley, Superintendent of the Recreation Department, for recommendation. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried, Councilman Powell voting no.

A communication was read from the Torrance Recreation Commission, signed by Mrs. F. L. Watson, Secretary, and C. M. Gilbert, Chairman, requesting a meeting with the Council for discussion of the proposed budget for the Recreation Department for the fiscal year 1945-46.

A discussion ensued at this time relative to the entire budget, Clerk Bartlett advising that work has started on the budget and that, in a short time, meetings can be scheduled for discussion of the various phases of it, and that all departments with one or two exceptions have submitted their estimates for the ensuing year.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the request of the Recreation Commission be referred to the Council, a date to be established for the meeting after work has progressed further on the general budget. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Civil Service Board, advising that a dinner meeting is scheduled for June 21, 1945, being the Annual Meeting of the California Merit System, and recommending that the members of the City Council, the City Clerk, Department Heads, and members of the Civil Service Board be authorized to attend, expenses paid.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request be granted. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the Civil Service Board, advising that, after due consideration, and in compliance with the recommendation of Mr. Ward, and at the request of the City Council, the Board had agreed to establish the following classifications for the Municipal Bus Lines:

- (1) Bus Maintenance Foreman
- (2) Bus Mechanic, Grade A
- (3) Bus Mechanic, Grade B
- (4) Bus Mechanic's Helper
- (5) Cashier-Bookkeeper
- (6) Dispatcher

The Board requested advice as to whether or not the Council wishes to request examinations to fill these new classifications, in which event it will be necessary to establish salary ratings for the positions.

Councilman Cucci stated that, inasmuch as all appointments to these various positions will be temporary only, salaries can be established upon filling of the positions, and that it is not desired to hold examinations for the duration of the war.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the matter be referred to the Bus, or Transportation Committee, for recommendation. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A statement was presented from Oppert and Forsberg, representing final payment for the construction as per contract of Torrance Municipal Water District Warehouse on Elm Street, balance due being \$2,452.25.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the bill be authorized paid, and that an appropriation of \$2,452.25 be made for same. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1731

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF TORRANCE, ACCEPTING  
BIDS FOR CERTAIN TAX DEEDED LANDS  
IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1731 be adopted. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Tolson asked if there are any protests to the proposed construction of the 203rd Street Sewer, Engineer Jain replying that, to his knowledge, there are no protests, whereupon Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1732

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF TORRANCE ORDERING THE  
WORK OF IMPROVING 203RD STREET AND  
CERTAIN OTHER STREETS AND RIGHTS-  
OF-WAY IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE BY  
THE CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION  
THEREIN OF A SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM;  
AND DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO POST  
AND PUBLISH A NOTICE INVITING SEALED  
PROPOSALS.

Councilman Cucci moved that Resolution No. 1732 be adopted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1733

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, ASCERTAIN-  
ING THE PREVAILING RATE OF PER DIEM WAGES  
FOR EACH TYPE OR CRAFT OF WORKMAN NEEDED  
TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT FOR THE IMPROVEMENT  
OF 203RD STREET AND CERTAIN OTHER STREETS  
AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE  
BY THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SANITARY SEWER  
SYSTEM THEREIN.

Councilman Cucci moved that Resolution No. 1733 be adopted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1734

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DIRECTING THAT THE ASSESSMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM IN 203RD STREET AND CERTAIN OTHER STREETS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE BE MADE BY THE CITY ENGINEER OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Cucci moved that Resolution No. 1734 be adopted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from Harold A. Barnett, Civil Engineer, offering to perform the engineering work and to write the proceedings and to make the assessments in connection with 1911 Act projects, for the City of Torrance, at the following rates: Survey work, 3-man party, \$50.00 per day. Office work, and time in consultation, \$3.00 per hour. Total not to exceed 10% of the contract cost. (203rd Street Sewer Project).

Councilman Cucci moved that Mr. Harold A. Barnett be authorized to proceed with the work outlined in his letter, and at the rates given in the letter, in connection with the 203rd Street Sewer Project. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci called attention to the recent placing of new benches at the various bus stops, placed by Doak Aircraft Company, and moved that Mr. Ward, Manager, Municipal Bus Lines, be authorized to direct a letter of appreciation for same to the Doak Aircraft Company on behalf of the Council and the citizens. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Cucci announced that the Bus Department had established a new record by taking in a total revenue of \$11,655.00 during the month of May.

He said that the volume of business has almost doubled, and that it is necessary to make some changes in personnel, whereupon he moved that the classification of Mrs. Edith Smith be changed from Secretary to Bookkeeper-Cashier, at a salary of \$180.00 per month, being a temporary appointment, effective May 1, 1945, and that Mr. A. E. Treloar's classification be changed from Bus Attendant, to Dispatcher, being a temporary appointment, effective immediately, with no change in salary. Councilman Powell seconded the motion.

Councilman Gilbert asked if it is distinctly understood that the employees appointed to these positions are appointed strictly on a temporary basis, and that they will be required to take and pass the examinations for the positions when they are held after the war before they can be permanently appointed to the new classifications. Councilman Cucci replied that he felt it to be generally understood that the employees appointed to these positions temporarily will be required to take the examinations when they are opened.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion to change the classifications temporarily of Mrs. Edith Smith and Mr. A. E. Treloar, Municipal Bus Lines, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock inquired regarding the change of classification of Mr. Treloar, asking whether or not his duties will be changed, Councilman Cucci's reply being in the affirmative.

Councilman Cucci moved that the re-routing of the bus service between Torrance and Walteria, to take in Hollywood Riviera and

Redondo Beach, be authorized. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$225.00 be made for painting and lettering Bus No. 104. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of \$141.68 be made for brake lining for Crown Busses, from Brake Lining Supply Company, for Municipal Bus Lines. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci moved that John Brand be employed as a Bus Operator, on a temporary basis, at a salary of \$185.00 per month, effective June 11, 1945. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci moved that Clayton R. Smith be employed as a Bus Mechanic, Grade A, on a temporary basis, at a salary of \$225.00 per month, effective May 11, 1945, Municipal Bus Lines. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci moved that John G. Cox be employed as a Bus Attendant, on a temporary basis, at a salary of \$190.00 per month, effective June 18, 1945, Municipal Bus Lines. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci moved that, in compliance with a recommendation of Engineer Jain, Mr. Jain be authorized to employ a carpenter and a cement man by the day to perform necessary labor for the construction of the Electrician's Garage and Work Shop at the rear of the Police Station. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of \$100.00, plus tax, be made for drip fluid for the City buildings. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Gilbert moved that, in compliance with a recommendation of Mr. Riley, Superintendent of Recreation, \$200.00 be appropriated for converting the summer house at the Municipal Park into a recreation office. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Gilbert moved that, in compliance with a request of Fred Blake, Park Superintendent, Mr. John King be employed at a salary of \$190.00 per month, as a Park Department Employee, on a temporary basis, effective July 1, 1945, to complete the personnel of the Park Department for the 1945-46 fiscal year. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.



Councilman Cucci moved that the motion made several meetings back to grant Councilman C. M. Gilbert a Military leave of absence be rescinded. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$174.00 be made for payment to Harold A. Barnett for engineering services for the month of May on the 203rd Street Sewer Assessment District. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$544.78 be made for 36 meters for Municipal Water District No. 1. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Tolson moved that a transfer of funds of \$60,000.00 be made from the General Fund of the City to the General Fund of Municipal Water District No. 1 to repay a loan. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci asked Attorney McCall whether or not the City of Torrance can be held liable in any way for operation of Torrance busses over the portion of Vermont Avenue lying in the City of Gardena, since the agreement with the City of Gardena relative to this matter has expired.

Attorney McCall said he could think of no reason why the City would be liable.

Attorney McCall was authorized to investigate this matter and report at the next meeting.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Joel Hagberg of WALTERIA expressed appreciation, on behalf of the WALTERIA Civic Organization, for the recent installation of traffic signals at the intersection of Hawthorne Avenue and Pacific Coast Highway, adding that much improvement in the traffic situation has already been evidenced.

Councilman Hitchcock moved all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 8:45 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Gilbert, the meeting adjourned.

  
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

ATTEST:

  
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE